

Remarks:

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 – 19 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 – 7, 11 – 16 are rejected. Claims 2 – 4, 17 – 19 are objected to.

Claims 1 and 6 – 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2 – 5, 13 – 15, and 17 – 18 have been amended.

Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled, thus rendering the objections moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112 (b)

Claims 6 – 11 are rejected under 35 USC 112(b) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6 – 11 have been cancelled, thus rendering the objections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 – 4 and 17 – 19.

Applicants also note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8 – 10.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore claim 2 as amended is allowable. Claims 3 – 5 as amended depend from claim 2, and are therefore likewise allowable.

Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 12. Therefore claim 17 as amended is allowable. Claims 13 – 15 as amended, claim 16 and claims 18 – 19 depend from claim 17, and are therefore likewise allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 5 – 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sharpe et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,618,955).

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 11 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim 5 as amended now depends from amended claim 2, which is allowable. Therefore claim 5 as amended is likewise allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

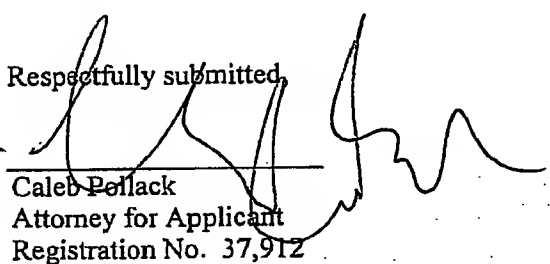
Claims 12 – 19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Brink (U.S. Patent No. 6,662,337).

Claim 12 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of claim 12 moot.

Claims 13 – 16 have been amended to depend from amended claim 17, which is allowable. Claims 18 – 19 also depend from claim 17. Therefore claims 13 – 16 and 18 – 19 are likewise allowable.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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